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Amendments to the claims

1. (Currently amended) A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail;

a plurality of templates connected to the flexible spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail; and

the templates being evenly spaced along the longitudinal direction of the flexible spine;

a plurality of clamps adapted to hold the curved rail against the flexible spine; and

a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The tool of claim 2, wherein the clamp means includes~~
A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a
curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted
to conform to the curvature of the curved rail;

a plurality of templates connected to the flexible spine; each of the
templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket
hole in the rail;

the templates being evenly spaced along the longitudinal direction of the
flexible spine; and

a clamp aligned with each of the templates.

4. (Original) The tool of claim 3, further comprising a clamp support connected to the flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.

5. (Original) The tool of claim 4, further comprising a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine.

6. (Currently amended) The tool of claim 4 3, ~~further comprising a clamp~~
wherein the clamps are carried by the flexible spine; ~~the clamp~~ clamps being
adapted to hold the curved rail against the flexible spine.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The tool of claim 7 6, further comprising a clamp support connected to the flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) ~~The tool of claim 1, wherein~~ A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail;

a plurality of templates connected to the flexible spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail;

the templates being evenly spaced along the longitudinal direction of the flexible spine; and

each of the templates has angled sidewalls.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The tool of claim 12, further comprising~~ A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail; the flexible spine having a top surface and a front surface;

a plurality of templates connected to the top surface of the flexible spine and extending over the front surface of the spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail; the templates remaining in a single planar reference plane when the spine is conformed to the curvature of the curved rail;

a plurality of clamps connected to the spine; each of the clamps adapted to force the rail toward the front surface of the spine; and

a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine; the clamps adapted to force the flexible cover against the rail.

14. (Original) The tool of claim 13, wherein each of the templates has angled sidewalls.

15. (Original) The tool of claim 14, wherein the templates are evenly spaced along the spine.

16. (Currently amended) The tool of claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein a clamp is aligned with each of the cutting templates.

17. (Original) The tool of claim 16, further comprising a clamp support connected to the flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The tool of claim 12, wherein~~ A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail; the flexible spine having a top surface and a front surface;

a plurality of templates connected to the top surface of the flexible spine and extending over the front surface of the spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail; the templates remaining in a single planar reference plane when the spine is conformed to the curvature of the curved rail;

a plurality of clamps connected to the spine; each of the clamps adapted to force the rail toward the front surface of the spine; and

each of the template openings has a center; the centers of the openings being equally spaced from the front surface of the spine.

19-20. (Cancelled)